

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:
 - 5 receiving, at a client of a computer system a modified wake-on-LAN packet via a network receive buffer on the client, the modified wake-on-LAN packet comprising executable code;
storing the executable code in memory associated with the network receive buffer;
retrieving the executable code from the memory by an action of BIOS associated with the client; and
 - 10 processing the executable code using the BIOS.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - adding the executable code to a wake-on-LAN packet to yield the modified wake-on-LAN packet and
 - 15 transmitting the modified wake-on-LAN packet to the client.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising verifying the modified wake-on-LAN packet using the BIOS.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the retrieved executable code to a PARTIES partition of a hard drive associated with the client.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising booting the client from the PARTIES partition using the BIOS prior to the processing of the executable code, wherein the processing occurs
- 25 through use of an application stored on the PARTIES partition.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising modifying the BIOS with a set of instructions for the method prior to receiving the modified wake-on-LAN packet.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the processing of the executable code comprises processing a ROM BIOS extension.
 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving comprises receiving the modified wake-on-
- 5 LAN packet over a network.

9. A service comprising:

adding executable code to a wake-on-LAN packet to yield a modified wake-on-LAN packet, the executable code being designed for storage in a network receive buffer of a remote client of a computer system and for processing by BIOS associated with the client; and

5 transmitting the modified wake-on-LAN packet to the client via a network in communication with the client.

10. The service of claim 9, further comprising:

10 receiving the modified wake-on-LAN packet via the network receive buffer on the remote client;

storing the executable code in memory associated with the network receive buffer;

retrieving the executable code from the memory by an action of BIOS associated with the client; and

processing the executable code using the BIOS.

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11. The service of claim 9, further comprising modifying the BIOS with a set of instructions for the service prior to transmitting the modified wake-on-LAN packet.

12. A system comprising:

a network which establishes communication between a client and a server computer of a computer system;

a network receive buffer at the client which receives a modified wake-on-LAN packet, the modified wake-on-LAN packet comprising executable code;

memory coupled to a processor of the client;

code stored in the memory which comprises a first instruction directing BIOS associated with the client to store the executable code in the memory, a second instruction directing retrieval of the executable code from the memory, and a third instruction directing processing of the executable code.

13. The system of claim 12, further comprising a wake-on-LAN packet editor for adding the executable code to a wake-on-LAN packet to yield the modified wake-on-LAN packet.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the memory further comprises BIOS instructions for verifying integrity of the modified wake-on-LAN packet.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the system further comprises pre-configuring instructions for the BIOS and the network receive buffer.

16. The system of claim 12, wherein the memory further comprises BIOS instructions for storing the executable code to a PARTIES partition of a hard drive associated with the client to enable booting by the BIOS from the PARTIES partition.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the third instruction occurs through use of an application stored on the PARTIES partition.

18. The system of claim 12, wherein the executable code comprises a ROM BIOS extension.

19. The system of claim 12, wherein the network receive buffer comprises the network receive buffer on a NIC card having wake-on-LAN support capability.

20. An apparatus comprising:

a computer readable medium;

code stored on said medium which is effective, when executed on a computer system, to

cause the apparatus to perform operations, by:

modifying a wake-on-LAN packet to add executable code thereto; and

transmitting the modified wake-on-LAN packet over a communications network to a client associated with the computer system; and

the executable code enabling service access to the client when received, stored, retrieved and processed by the client.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a set of instructions stored on the medium prior to transmitting the modified wake-on-LAN packet code, wherein the set, when executed, is effective to cause the apparatus to modify the BIOS of a client.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the code for transmitting comprises instructions for transmitting over a network from a computer of the computer system to the remote client.

23. An apparatus comprising:

a computer readable medium;

code stored on said medium which is effective, when executed by a client of a computer system, to perform operations of:

receiving in network receive buffer of the client a modified wake-on-LAN packet via a communications network from a computer system associated with the client, wherein the

modified wake-on-LAN comprises executable code;

storing the executable code in memory associated with a network receive buffer;

retrieving the executable code from the memory by an action of BIOS associated with the client; and

processing the executable code using the BIOS; and

the executable code enabling service to the client by performing the code.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the code further comprises instructions stored on the medium for verifying the modified wake-on-LAN packet using the BIOS.

5 25. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the code for the storing comprises instructions stored on the medium for storing the executable code to a PARTIES partition of a hard drive associated with the client.

10 26. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising additional code stored on the medium for booting the client from the PARTIES partition using the BIOS prior to the processing of the executable code, wherein the processing occurs through use of an application stored on the PARTIES partition.

27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the code for processing comprises instructions for a ROM BIOS extension.

28. A machine-accessible medium containing instructions, which when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations for managing a remote client of a computer system, comprising:

- 5 receiving, at a client of a computer system a modified wake-on-LAN packet via a network receive buffer on the client, the modified wake-on-LAN packet comprising executable code;
 storing the executable code in memory associated with the network receive buffer;
 retrieving the executable code from the memory by an action of BIOS associated with the client; and
10 processing the executable code using the BIOS.

29. The machine-accessible medium of claim 28, wherein the instructions further comprise operations for

- adding the executable code to a wake-on-LAN packet to yield the modified wake-on-LAN
15 packet and
 transmitting the modified wake-on-LAN packet to the client.

30. The machine-accessible medium of claim 29, wherein the instructions further comprise operations for modifying the BIOS with a set of instructions prior to performing the instructions
20 for transmitting.

31. The machine-accessible medium of claim 28, wherein the instructions further comprise operations for verifying the modified wake-on-LAN packet using the BIOS.

- 25 32. The machine-accessible medium of claim 28, wherein the instructions further comprise operations for storing, after performing the instructions for retrieving, of the executable code to a PARTIES partition of a hard drive associated with the remote client.

- 30 33. The machine-accessible medium of claim 32, wherein the instructions further comprise operations for booting, by the BIOS, from the PARTIES partition prior to performing the

instructions for processing of the executable code, wherein the instructions for processing occur through use of an application stored on the PARTIES partition.

34. The machine-accessible medium of claim 28, wherein the instructions for processing of the
5 executable code comprise instructions for processing a ROM BIOS extension.

35. The machine-accessible medium of claim 28, wherein the receiving comprises receiving the modified wake-on-LAN packet over a network.